

A6.4-SBM020-A04

Glossary

Article 6.4 mechanism terms

Version 01.0



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

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1. Background

1. This glossary is a compilation of terms commonly used in the mechanism established under the Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement (Article 6.4 mechanism).

2. Scope and entry into force

2.1. Scope

2. The glossary is to be read in conjunction with Article 6.4 rules, requirements or associated tools. Where a term is defined both in this glossary and in Article 6.4 mechanism rules or requirements, the definition contained in the Article 6.4 mechanism rules or requirements prevails in case of inconsistency. The Glossary will be revised as new terms are defined or existing definitions of terms are improved in the corresponding regulatory documents.

2.2. Entry into force

3. This document enters into force on 20 February 2026.

3. Acronyms and abbreviations used in the Glossary

<i>Acronym/Abbreviation</i>	<i>Full text</i>
A6.4ER	Article 6.4 emission reduction
A6.4 SD tool	Article 6.4 sustainable development tool (ver.01.1)
ACP-P	Procedure: Article 6.4 activity cycle procedure for projects (ver.03.0)
ACP-PoAs	Procedure: Article 6.4 activity cycle procedure for programmes of activities (ver.03.0)
AE	Applicant entity
AEP	Accreditation Expert Panel
Accreditation Procedure	Procedure: Article 6.4 accreditation (ver.02.0)
Accreditation Standard	Standard: Article 6.4 mechanism accreditation (ver.02.0)
AER	Authorized Article 6.4 emission reduction
Additionality Standard	Standard: Demonstration of additionality in mechanism methodologies (ver.01.2)
AP	Activity participant
AS-P	Standard: Article 6.4 activity standard for projects (ver.03.0)
AS-PoAs	Standard: Article 6.4 activity standard for programmes of activities (ver.03.0)
Baseline Standard	Standard: Setting the baseline in mechanism methodologies (ver.01.0)
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
CDM	Clean development mechanism
CER	Certified emission reduction of the clean development mechanism

Acronym/Abbreviation	Full text
Common Practice Tool	Methodological Tool: Common Practice Analysis (ver.01.0)
COP	Conference of the Parties
CP	Component project
CP-DD	Component project design document
DNA	Designated national authority
DOE	Designated operational entity
ITMO	Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcome
LDC	Least developed country
Leakage Standard	Standard: Addressing leakage in mechanism methodologies (ver.01.0)
MCU	Mitigation contribution Article 6.4 emission reduction unit
MEP	Methodological Expert Panel
MoC	Modalities of communication
NDC	Nationally determined contribution
OMGE	Overall mitigation in global emissions
PACM	Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism
PDD	Project design document
Performance Monitoring of DOEs Procedure	Procedure: Performance monitoring of the Article 6.4 designated operational entities (ver.01.0)
PoA	Programme of activities
PoA-DD	Programme of activities design document
Registry Procedure	Procedure: Article 6.4 mechanism registry (ver.02.1)
Removals Standard	Standard: Requirements of activities involving removals under the Article 6.4 mechanism (ver.01.0)
Reversals Standard	Standard: Addressing non-permanence and reversals in mechanism methodologies (ver.01.0)
RMPs	Rules, modalities and procedures for the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement
SBM	Supervisory Body of the Article 6.4 mechanism
SDGs	Sustainable development goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
Suppressed Demand Standard	Standard: Addressing suppressed demand in mechanism methodologies (ver.01.0)
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Acronym/Abbreviation	Full text
VVS-P	Standard: Article 6.4 validation and verification standard for projects (ver.03.0)
VVS-PoAs	Standard: Article 6.4 validation and verification standard for programmes of activities (ver.03.0)

4. Interpretation

4. The term “RMPs” refers to, unless otherwise specified, the rules, modalities and procedures¹ for the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement.

5. Terms in alphabetical order

Term	Meaning
Active crediting period	The first crediting period of an Article 6.4 activity or any subsequent crediting period that has been renewed. (<i>Ref.: Para. 3(a) of the Reversals Standard</i>)
Activity participant	A public or private entity that participates in an Article 6.4 activity. (<i>Ref.: Para. 4(a) of the Additionality Standard</i>)
Activity-level environmental and social indicators	Indicators identified during the assessment of environmental and social risks for a specific Article 6.4 activity as defined in the completed A6.4-FORM-AC-016. These indicators help ensure that Article 6.4 activities do not cause harm — for example, to the environment, communities, Indigenous Peoples, or workers of the Article 6.4 activity. (<i>Ref.: Para. 19(a) of the A6.4 SD Tool</i>)
Activity-level sustainable development (SD) indicators	A6.4 activity-specific monitoring indicators, consistent with the SDGs that represent Article 6.4 activity contributions to SD. They reflect SD objectives as well as SD priorities defined by a host Party, as specified in the A6.4-FORM-AC-017. (<i>Ref.: Para. 19(b) of the A6.4 SD Tool</i>)
Activities involving removals	Activities involving processes by which GHGs are removed from the atmosphere as a result of deliberate human activities and are either destroyed or durably stored through anthropogenic activities. (<i>Ref.: Adapted from the Removals Standard</i>)
Accreditation	Formal recognition by the Supervisory Body of an operational entity’s institutional capacity, competence, and impartiality to appropriately perform validation and/or verification/certification functions in accordance with the Article 6.4 rules and requirements. (<i>Ref.: Para. 8(b) of the Accreditation Standard</i>)

¹ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2021_10a01E.pdf#page=25.

Term	Meaning
Accreditation requirement	A requirement adopted by the CMA or the Supervisory Body and with which an operational entity shall comply to become and remain accredited. (Ref.: Para. 8(c) of the Accreditation Standard)
Accreditation Expert Panel (AEP)	A panel established in accordance with paragraph 70, Annex II of the rules of procedure of the Supervisory Body (Decision 7.CMA.4), to support the Supervisory Body in considering the results of accreditation assessments of AEs/DOEs by Article 6.4 assessment teams, providing recommendations on the accreditation status of, or related actions for, AEs/DOEs, and on areas defined as per the Procedure: Article 6.4 accreditation. (Ref.: Para. 9(b) of the Accreditation Procedure)
Additionality	An Article 6.4 activity is additional if it: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Represents mitigation that exceeds any mitigation that is required by law or regulation;(b) Avoids locking in levels of emissions, technologies or carbon intensive practices that are incompatible with paragraph 33 of the RMPs; and(c) (Would not have occurred in the absence of incentives from the mechanism, taking into account all relevant national policies, including legislation. (Ref.: Para. 4(b) of the Additionality in Standard”)
Admitted observer organization	An organization that has been admitted by the COP as an observer to the UNFCCC. (Ref.: Adapted from the CDM)
Analysis of lock-in risk	Demonstration that the implementation of an Article 6.4 activity does not lead to locking in levels of emissions or carbon-intensive technologies or practices that are incompatible with paragraph 33 of the RMPs. (Ref.: Para. 14(b) of the Additionality Standard)
Appeal against DOE decision	A request made by a client to obtain a formal review of a decision taken by a DOE in respect of its validation, verification or certification functions. (Ref.: Para. 8(a) of the Accreditation Standard)
Applicability conditions	Conditions that specify contexts, configurations and cases in which a mechanism methodology can be applied to a proposed Article 6.4 activity while ensuring environmental integrity. (Ref.: Para. 4(b) of the Baseline Standard)
Applicant entity (AE)	An entity which has applied to be accredited by the Supervisory Body as a DOE. (Ref. Adapted from the CDM)
Approval by a host Party	Approval by a host Party means the approval to register a proposed project or PoA to be implemented within the geographical boundaries of the host Party under the Article 6.4 mechanism. (Ref.: Newly formulated)

Term	Meaning
Article 6, paragraph 4, activity (Article 6.4 activity)	An activity that meets the requirements of Article 6, paragraphs 4–6 of the Paris Agreement, the RMPs, and any further relevant decisions of the CMA. (<i>Ref. Para. 1(a) of the Annex to Decision 3/CMA.3</i>)
Article 6, paragraph 4, activity scenario (Article 6.4 activity scenario)	The scenario in which the Article 6.4 activity is implemented (as opposed to the baseline scenario and business as usual (BAU) scenario). (<i>Ref.: Newly formulated</i>)
Article 6, paragraph 4, emission reduction (A6.4ER)	A unit issued for mitigation achieved pursuant to Article 6, paragraphs 4–6 of the Paris Agreement, the RMPs, and any further relevant decisions of the CMA. It is measured in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO ₂ -eq) and is equal to 1 tonne CO ₂ -eq calculated in accordance with the Article 6.4 mechanism methodologies and metrics assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and adopted by the CMA or in other metrics adopted by the CMA pursuant to the RMPs. A6.4ERs include authorized A6.4ERs and mitigation contribution A6.4ERs. (<i>Ref.: Para. 1(b) of the Annex to Decision 3/CMA.3</i>)
Article 6, paragraph 4 mechanism (Article 6.4 mechanism)	The mechanism established under Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement, the purpose of which is to contribute to the mitigation of GHG emissions and support SD for use by Parties on a voluntary basis. (<i>Ref.: Newly formulated</i>)
Assessment teams (ATs)	The teams of accreditation experts that assess, in accordance with “Procedure: Article 6.4 accreditation”, the “Article 6.4 accreditation standard” and under the guidance of the AEP, whether AEs/DOEs comply with the Article 6.4 accreditation requirements. ATs submit their assessment reports to the AEP. ATs are selected from the roster of experts established for the purpose of accreditation assessments (Accreditation Roster of Experts) which contains both external experts and secretariat staff. (<i>Ref.: Para. 9(c) of the Accreditation Procedure</i>)
Assets	Resources with economic value that an individual, corporation or country owns or controls with the expectation that it will provide future benefit; the assets could be physical, such as project equipment, or non-corporeal such as permits and exclusive position in legislation. (<i>Ref.: Para. 27(c) of the AS-P and Para. 88(c) of the AS-PoAs</i>)
Authorization of activity participants	Authorization of the participation of public or private entity(ies) as activity participant(s) in an Article 6.4 activity. (<i>Ref.: Newly formulated</i>)
Authorization of A6.4ERs	A statement provided by the host Party to the supervisory body specifying whether it authorizes A6.4ERs issued or to be issued for an Article 6.4 mechanism activity for use towards achievement of NDCs and/or for other international mitigation purposes as defined in decision 2/CMA.3. (<i>Ref.: Newly formulated</i>)

Term	Meaning
Authorized emission reductions (AERs)	Refers to A6.4ERs that are authorized by the host Party of the Article 6.4 activity for which the A6.4ERs are issued, for use towards the achievement of NDCs and/or for other international mitigation purposes pursuant to paragraph 42 of the RMPs. <i>(Ref.: Para. 8(h) of the Registry Procedure)</i>
Authorized signatory	The natural person who represents a focal point or activity participant in an Article 6.4 activity (which may include a person who is authorized by way of a power of attorney) and whose name, contact details and specimen signature are registered in the modalities of communication (MoC) statement. <i>(Ref.: Adapted from the CDM)</i>
Avoidable reversals	Reversals caused by factors over which the activity participants have influence or control. <i>(Ref. Para. 9(e) of the Removals Standard)</i>
Barrier analysis	Demonstration that an Article 6.4 activity would be prevented by barriers and that the incentives from the mechanism make the determining difference for overcoming the barriers. <i>(Ref.: Para. 14(d) of the Additionality Standard)</i>
Baseline emissions	The GHG emissions that would occur in the baseline scenario. <i>(Ref.: Adapted from the CDM)</i>
Baseline geographical reference area	The geographical area assessed for setting the crediting baseline. <i>(Ref.: Para. 4(c) of the Baseline Standard)</i>
Basic human needs	Physical and physiological needs considered essential for minimum quality of life, such as water, food, housing, sanitation (waste treatment/disposal, and wastewater treatment), access to energy services (including lighting, cooking, and thermal comforts including heating or cooling), mobility, communications, education, health and economic activities such as agriculture. <i>(Ref.: Para. 4(b) of the Suppressed Demand Standard)</i>
Best available technology	The practice or technology in a given scope (e.g., sector and baseline geographical area) that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Provides a similar output as the Article 6.4 activity;(b) Represents an economically feasible and environmentally sound course of action;(c) Is available in the baseline geographical area, meaning accessible off the shelf, or via a tendering or direct contracting process, or by direct implementation by an end user within the boundary of potential Article 6.4 activities; and(d) Results in the lowest emissions or largest removals per unit of output among all practices and/or technologies that fulfil the conditions (i) to (iii). <i>(Ref.: Para. 4(d) of the Baseline Standard)</i>

Term	Meaning
Best performing comparable activities	The activities that provide outputs within a top segment of performance in terms of GHG emissions or removals per unit of output, considering all activities that provide similar outputs in a baseline geographical reference area. <i>(Ref.: Para. 4(e) of the Baseline Standard)</i>
Business-as-usual	Plausible reference benchmark or scenario for GHG emissions or removals prior to or in the absence of the implementation of the proposed Article 6.4 activity. It may be at a scenario, emission or removal level, or an emissions or removals intensity. <i>(Ref.: Para 4(f) of the Baseline Standard and Para. 4(c) of the Suppressed Demand Standard)</i>
Carbon stock	The quantity of carbon in a GHG reservoir. <i>(Ref.: Para.3(c) of the Reversals Standard)</i>
Certification	For an Article 6.4 activity, the written assurance by a DOE that, during a specified time period, the Article 6.4 activity achieved the GHG emission reductions and/or net removals, as verified. <i>(Ref.: Adapted from the CDM)</i>
Certified emission reductions	Certified emission reductions issued under the CDM of the Kyoto Protocol that are eligible for use towards achievement of an NDC and have been transferred from the CDM registry to the mechanism registry in accordance with paragraph 75(b) of the RMPs. <i>(Ref.: Para. 8(k) of the Registry Procedure)</i>
Central office of a DOE	An office of the DOE, where the top management for the validation and verification/certification functions is mainly located, as specified by the DOE. <i>(Ref.: Para. 8(d) of the Accreditation Standard)</i>
Client of a DOE	An activity participant to which a DOE provides a validation or verification/certification service through a contract. <i>(Ref.: Para. 8(e) of the Accreditation Standard)</i>
Common practice analysis	Demonstration that the relevant technology or practice is not common practice (e.g., it has a low market penetration). <i>(Ref.: Para. 14(e) of the Additionality Standard)</i>
Competence for validation and verification	Ability to apply knowledge and skills in order to perform the validation or verification/certification in accordance with all Article 6.4 rules and requirements. <i>(Ref.: Para. 8(f) of the Accreditation Standard)</i>
Complaint against a DOE	A formal expression of dissatisfaction, made electronically or in writing, regarding the performance of a DOE or its outsourced entities in relation to its validation or verification/certification functions. Complaints may be submitted by any source, including but not limited to, clients, activity participants, the general public or its representatives, government bodies and non-governmental organizations. <i>(Ref.: Para. 8(g) of the Accreditation Standard)</i>

Term	Meaning
Completeness check	The process undertaken by the secretariat to confirm that all information and documents that are required to be submitted by activity participants, DOEs or DNAs, as applicable, have been submitted and that the submitted documents are complete and in accordance with the Article 6.4 rules and requirements. (Ref.: <i>Adapted from the CDM</i>)
Component project (CP)	A single measure, or a set of interrelated measures under an Article 6.4 PoA, to reduce GHG emissions by sources or result in net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks. (Ref.: <i>Adapted from the CDM</i>)
Controlled sources, sinks and reservoirs	GHG sources, sinks and reservoirs that are under the direction and influence of the activity participant through financial, policy, management or other instruments. (Ref.: <i>Para. 3(c) of the Leakage Standard</i>)
Corrective action	Action taken by a DOE to eliminate the cause of a non-conformity in order to prevent its recurrence. (Ref.: <i>Para. 8(h) of the Accreditation Standard</i>)
CP design document (CP-DD)	The document prepared by the activity participants which sets out in detail, in accordance with the Article 6.4 rules and requirements, the CP which is to be undertaken. The form of CP-DD is publicly available on the UNFCCC Article 6.4 website. (Ref.: <i>Adapted from the CDM</i>)
Crediting baseline	The reference emissions or removals level against which the volume of emission reductions or net removals achieved by the Article 6.4 activity is quantified. (Ref.: <i>Para. 4(g) of the Baseline Standard</i>)
Crediting deficit	A net increase in GHG emissions resulting from an Article 6.4 activity caused by factors other than reversals. (Ref.: <i>Para. 3(d) of the Reversals Standard</i>)
Crediting period	The period of time in which verified and certified GHG emission reductions or net removals attributable to an Article 6.4 project or CP, as applicable, can result in the issuance of A6.4ERs, as applicable, from that Article 6.4 project or CP. (Ref.: <i>Adapted from the CDM</i>)

Term	Meaning
Critical habitats	Areas with high biodiversity importance, covering: (i) habitats of significant importance to critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable or near-threatened species, listed as such in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species; (ii) habitats of significant importance to endemic and/or restricted-range species; (iii) habitats supporting globally significant concentrations of migratory species and/or congregatory species; (iv) highly threatened and/or unique ecosystems; (v) areas associated with key evolutionary processes; and/or (vi) legally protected areas or internationally recognized areas of high biodiversity value, which may include reserves that meet the criteria of the IUCN protected area management categories I through VI; World Heritage Sites; areas protected under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; core areas of world biosphere reserves; or areas in the United Nations List of National Parks and Protected Areas; sites listed in the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas; or other sites meeting the criteria of the IUCN 2016 Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas. (Ref.: Footnote 38 of the A6.4 SD Tool)
Cultural heritage	Includes artefacts, monuments, a group of buildings and sites, museums that have a diversity of values including symbolic, historic, artistic, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological, scientific and social significance. It includes tangible heritage (movable, immobile and underwater), intangible cultural heritage (ICH) embedded into cultural, and natural heritage artefacts, sites or monuments. The definition excludes ICH related to other cultural domains such as festivals, celebration etc. It covers industrial heritage and cave paintings. (Ref.: UNESCO definition of Cultural heritage. Available at: https://uis.unesco.org/en/glossary-term/cultural-heritage)
Cumulative impacts	In the context of sustainable development (SD) assessment, cumulative impacts on habitats and biodiversity are those impacts resulting from incremental changes caused by other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions, in conjunction with the Article 6.4 activity itself. (Ref.: Footnote 34 of the A6.4 SD Tool)
Designated national authority (DNA)	The body granted responsibility by a Party, to undertake actions within the A6.4 mechanism activity cycle with respect to Article 6.4 activities on behalf of that Party, in accordance with the Article 6.4 rules and requirements. (Ref.: Adapted from the CDM)
Designated operational entity (DOE)	An entity accredited by the Supervisory Body as qualified to perform validation and/or verification/certification functions. (Ref.: Para. 8(i) of the Accreditation Standard)

Term	Meaning
Deviation	<p>A change required or implemented, as applicable, by activity participants to either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Elements and criteria of the SD Tool or an approved mechanism methodology, prior to registration of an Article 6.4 project or CP; or(b) The implementation of the Article 6.4 project or CP when compared against the monitoring plan as described in the registered PDD or CP-DD, the elements and criteria of the SD tool, A6.4 SD tool forms or the monitoring methodology. <p>The acceptance of such a change is subject to the Supervisory Body approval, in accordance with the A6.4 mechanism rules and requirements. (Ref.: <i>Adapted from the CDM</i>)</p>
Direct impact on the SD of host Party(ies)	<p>The positive and/or negative direct impacts of an Article 6.4 activity on the sustainable development of the host Party(ies) are impacts that arise from the activity's direct contribution to or interaction with environmental, social, or economic components during implementation and operation, and, if applicable, its dismantling. (Ref.: <i>Footnote 56 of the A6.4 SD Tool</i>)</p>
Dispute	<p>In the context of validation and/or validation/certification is a disagreement between a DOE and its client on any matter pertaining to the validation and/or verification/certification activities excluding decisions subject to appeal. (Ref.: <i>Para. 8(j) of the Accreditation Standard</i>)</p>
DOE performance	<p>The assessment of how successfully a DOE carries out its validation and verification/certification functions, as defined in the RMPs and the Supervisory Body. (Ref.: <i>Para. 10(a) of the Performance monitoring of DOEs Procedure</i>)</p>
Economic displacement	<p>Loss of land, assets, or access to assets, leading to loss of income sources or other means of livelihood. (Ref.: <i>Para. 71 of the A6.4 SD Tool</i>)</p>
Emissions	<p>The release of GHGs and/or their precursors into the atmosphere over a specified area and period of time. (Ref.: <i>Article 1, Para. 4 of the UNFCCC</i>)</p>
Emission reduction	<p>The emissions occurring in the baseline scenario, minus emissions occurring in the Article 6.4 scenario, minus any leakage emissions. (Ref.: <i>Newly formulated</i>)</p>
Environmentally sound technology or practice	<p>A technology and/or practice that is in line with laws and regulations on environmental protection in the applicable geographical area and seeks to reasonably minimize environmental harm. (Ref.: <i>Para. 43 of the Baseline Standard</i>)</p>

Term	Meaning
Expert Review Team	A group of external experts established in accordance with paragraph 70 of the rules of procedure of the Supervisory Body (Decision 7/CMA.4), to assist the Supervisory Body in assessing requests for registration of Article 6.4 activities, and requests for issuance of A6.4ERs that have been placed under review. (<i>Ref.: Newly formulated</i>)
First transfer	An action with respect to AERs that triggers the corresponding adjustment to the accounting of the host Party, as referred to in paragraph 2 of the annex to decision 2/CMA.3. (<i>Ref.: Para. 8(q) of the Registry procedure</i>)
Focal point	<p>Any entity, or entities, whether or not registered as an activity participant in the corresponding Article 6.4 activity, nominated through the MoC statement by activity participants to communicate with the Supervisory Body and the secretariat in relation to the following scopes of authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Communication in relation to requests for forwarding of A6.4ERs;(b) Communication in relation to changes to the MoC;(c) Communication on all other activity related matters not covered by (a) or (b) above. (<i>Ref.: Adapted from the CDM</i>)
Forced labour	Any work or service not voluntarily performed and exacted from an individual under threat of force or penalty. (<i>Ref.: Footnote 43 of the A6.4 SD Tool</i>)
Free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC)	A specific right of Indigenous Peoples recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that allows Indigenous Peoples to engage in negotiations to shape the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of an activity ² . (<i>Ref.: Footnote 47 of A6.4 SD Tool</i>)
Geographical boundary of a project or CP	The physical delineation or geographical area that encompasses all sources and sinks under the control of the activity participants, which are significant and reasonably attributable to the project or CP in accordance with the applied methodologies and, where applicable, the applied standardized baselines. (<i>Ref.: Para. 43 of the AS-P and Para. 51 of the AS-PoAs</i>)
Geographical boundary(ies) of a PoA	Encompasses the municipality, region within a country or several countries within which all the CPs that are included in the PoA are implemented. (<i>Ref.: Adapted from the CDM</i>)
Greenhouse gas (GHG)	Those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation. For the purpose of the Article 6.4 mechanism, unless otherwise specified, GHG refers to anthropogenic GHG. (<i>Ref.: Article 1, Para. 5 of the UNFCCC</i>)

² See <https://www.fao.org/indigenouspeoples/pillars-of-work/free--prior-and-informed-consent/en>.

Term	Meaning
Greenhouse gas reservoir	A component or components of the global climate system where a GHG or a precursor of a GHG is stored. For the purposes of the Article 6.4 mechanism, this term excludes the atmosphere and includes the biosphere, geosphere, and hydrosphere. (Ref.: <i>Para. 3(e) of the Reversals Standard</i>)
High Conservation Value	A biological, ecological, social, or cultural value of outstanding significance or critical importance. ³ (Ref.: <i>Footnote 39 of the A6.4 SD Tool</i>)
Host Party(ies)	The Party(ies) on whose territory an Article 6.4 activity is physically located. (Ref.: <i>Adapted from the CDM</i>)
Indicator of common practice	A quantitative metric, expressed either as the number of units or as capacity/output, used to assess common practice. (Ref.: <i>Para. 7(g) of the Common Practice Tool</i>)
Investment analysis	Demonstration that an Article 6.4 activity is not financially viable in the absence of revenues from A6.4ERs. (Ref.: <i>Para. 14(c) of Additionality Standard</i>)
Involuntary resettlement	A scenario in which affected persons or communities do not have the right to refuse land acquisition or restrictions on land use that result in displacement. (Ref.: <i>Footnote 46 Article 6.4 SD Tool</i>)
Issuance	The instruction by the Supervisory Body to the Registry Administrator to issue a specified quantity of A6.4ERs for an Article 6.4 activity into the pending account in the Article 6.4 mechanism registry, for subsequent distribution to other accounts in accordance with the Article 6.4 mechanism rules and requirements. (Ref.: <i>Adapted from the CDM</i>)
Joint focal point	A focal point role shared by two or more entities for a given scope of authority of communication with the Supervisory Body and the secretariat with respect to an Article 6.4 activity, where one signature of the corresponding authorized signatories of each of the joint focal point entities is necessary to effect any instruction within the scope of authority. (Ref.: <i>Adapted from the CDM</i>)

³ Available at: <https://www.hcvnetwork.org/hcv-approach>.

Term	Meaning
Leakage	<p>Changes in anthropogenic emissions and/or removals of GHGs that occur outside the activity boundary and that are attributable to the activity, including those resulting from changes in market demand or supply for associated outputs.</p> <p>Leakage may involve the following sub-forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Positive leakage: Leakage where the implementation of an Article 6.4 activity results in a decrease in emissions and/or an increase in removals;(b) Negative leakage: Leakage where the implementation of an Article 6.4 activity results in an increase in emissions and/or a decrease in removals. (<i>Ref.: Para. 3(d) of the Leakage Standard</i>)
Least developed country (LDC)	<p>A country identified by the United Nations as meeting the criteria for LDC status. (<i>Ref.: Adapted from the CDM</i>)</p>
Legal requirements	<p>Laws, statutes, regulations, court orders, decrees, consent agreements, executive orders, permitting conditions or any other legally binding mandates, noting that regulatory environments may vary. (<i>Ref.: Para. 4(h) of the Baseline Standard</i>)</p>
Level of aggregation	<p>The extent to which consolidation of information from any parts or units to form a collective whole is undertaken. (<i>Ref.: Para. 4(i) of the Baseline Standard</i>)</p>
Level of service	<p>The quality, reliability and scale of an output provided by an Article 6.4 activity and/or in the baseline scenario. (<i>Ref.: Para. 4(d) of the Suppressed Demand Standard and Para. 4(j) of the Baseline Standard</i>)</p>
Level of service for meeting basic human needs	<p>The threshold below which an individual is considered to face deprivation of basic human needs. (<i>Ref.: Para. 4(e) of the Suppressed Demand Standard</i>)</p>
Local stakeholders	<p>Stakeholders directly impacted by a proposed Article 6.4 activity, including local communities and Indigenous Peoples as applicable, and representatives of local authorities relevant to the Article 6.4 activity. (<i>Ref.: Para. 2 of the Appendix 2 to the AS-P and Para. 3 of the Appendix 2 to the AS-PoAs</i>)</p>
Material information	<p>A piece of information, the omission, misstatement, or erroneous reporting of which could change a decision by the Supervisory Body. (<i>Ref.: Adapted from the CDM</i>)</p>
Materiality	<p>An auditing concept to be applied by DOEs in verifications in order to detect errors, omissions or misstatements in emission reductions and/or net removals being claimed by activity participants in monitoring reports for Article 6.4 activities. (<i>Ref.: Adapted from the CDM</i>)</p>

Term	Meaning
May	A term used in Article 6.4 regulations to indicate what is permitted. <i>(Ref.: Para. 9(c) of the ACP-P and multiple other references)</i>
Methodological Expert Panel (MEP)	A panel established in accordance with paragraph 70, Annex II of the rules of procedure of the Supervisory Body (Decision 7.CMA.4), to support the Supervisory Body in the development, revision or withdrawal of methodological standards, guidelines and clarifications and in other methodological matters applicable to Article 6.4 activities. <i>(Ref.: Newly formulated)</i>
Mitigation contribution units (MCUs)	A6.4ERs that are not specified as authorized for use towards the achievement of NDCs of Parties and/or for other international mitigation purposes pursuant to paragraph 29(b) of annex I to 7/CMA.4. <i>(Ref.: Para. 8(i) of the Registry Procedure)</i>
Modalities of communication (MoC) statement	A statement signed by all activity participants of an Article 6.4 project or PoA, set out in a prescribed form, that designates one or more focal point entities to communicate on behalf of the activity participants with the secretariat and the Supervisory Body in accordance with established scopes. Separate entities may be nominated for each scope of authority either in a sole, shared or joint focal point role. <i>(Ref.: Adapted from the CDM)</i>
Monitoring	Collecting and archiving all data necessary to determine emission reductions and/or net removals and to ensure that relevant requirements in mechanism methodologies and relevant rules and requirements under the Article 6.4 mechanism are fulfilled. <i>(Ref.: Adapted from the CDM)</i>
Monitoring plan	The plan which sets out the methods, data sources and responsibilities for monitoring, consistent with requirements specified in mechanism methodologies, methodological tools and other relevant rules and requirements under the Article 6.4 mechanism. <i>(Ref.: Adapted from the CDM)</i>
Monitoring report	A report prepared by activity participants which sets out how the emission reductions and/or net removals of an implemented registered Article 6.4 activity were calculated and how other requirements of the Article 6.4 activity were met for a particular monitoring period. <i>(Ref.: Adapted from the CDM)</i>
Negligible risk of reversal	A risk of reversal that would result in a loss of no more than a maximum percentage to be specified in mechanism methodologies on the basis of guidance to be developed in the reversal risk assessment tool of all the A6.4ERs issued with respect to the total emission reductions and/or net removals achieved by the activity during its active crediting period, calculated over a 100-year timeframe starting from no earlier than the end of the last active crediting period. <i>(Ref.: Para. 3(g) of the Reversals Standard)</i>

Term	Meaning
Net change in emissions in GHG storage	Calculated by subtracting the total emissions in the baseline scenario from the total emissions in the activity scenario calculated from the start date of the period covered by a monitoring report to the end date of the same period. This does not include GHG storage losses from the GHG stored in the reservoirs. (Ref.: Para. 30(b) of the Removals Standard)
Net change in GHG storage	Calculated by subtracting the sum of the change in GHG stored in each applicable GHG reservoir in the baseline scenario from the sum of the change in greenhouse gases stored in each applicable GHG reservoir in the activity scenario, calculated from the start date of the period covered by a monitoring report to the end date of the same period. (Ref.: Para. 30(a) of the Removals Standard)
Non-compliance	Failure to meet Article 6.4 mechanism rules and requirements. (Ref.: Para. 10(b) of the Performance Monitoring of DOEs Procedure)
Non-conformity	Non-fulfilment of an Article 6.4 accreditation requirement. (Ref.: Para. 8(n) of the Accreditation Standard)
Observed event	An observed event involving the release of stored GHGs that could potentially lead to a reversal. (Ref.: Para. 43 of the Removals Standard)
Other participating Party(ies)	A Party(ies) other than the host Party(ies) that participates in the Article 6.4 activity. (Ref.: Newly formulated)
Other transfer or transfer in mechanism registry	The movement of AERs, MCUs or CERs from an account which is not the pending account, unless that transfer is a first transfer as defined above. (Ref.: Para. 8(r) of the Registry Procedure)
Output	Each good or service ⁴ provided by the Article 6.4 activity and/or in the baseline scenario, as specified in the mechanism methodology. (Ref.: Para. 3(f) of the Leakage Standard and Para. 4(k) of the Baseline Standard)
Outsourced entities	Entities to which the DOE outsources some of the validation or verification/certification functions. (Ref.: Para. 8(o) of the Accreditation Standard)
Party	A Party to the Paris Agreement. (Ref.: Para. 8(d) of the Registry Procedure)

⁴ For example, electricity, energy for cooking, municipal waste management.

Term	Meaning
Performance-based approach	Demonstration that an Article 6.4 activity is unlikely to be implemented without the incentives from the mechanism if it outperforms other activities in one or several indicator(s) (e.g., an emissions benchmark) that are a good proxy for the likelihood of additionality for the relevant technology or practice. (<i>Ref.: Para. 14(f) of the Additionality Standard</i>)
Physical displacement	Relocation, loss of residential land or loss of shelter. (<i>Ref.: Para. 71 of the A6.4 SD Tool</i>)
Policies	All national or sub-national policies that are applicable to the relevant activity and its alternatives, including: policies and legal requirements; subsidies and incentives (e.g., incentives from carbon pricing schemes such as emission trading schemes or from guarantees of origin); taxes and tax breaks; fees; performance standards; or other specified instruments or means of implementation. These also include any specific national or sub-national targets for the sector or the type of activity, as long as these are supported by policy frameworks for implementation, but not general goals (e.g., a national emissions target) that are not specific to the sector or type of activity. (<i>Ref.: Para. 4(l) of the Baseline Standard</i>)
Pool of users	For activities related to outputs, the pool of users consists of the user(s) supplied with the outputs by the activity. (<i>Ref.: Para. 4(m) of the Baseline Standard</i>)
Post-crediting monitoring period	The period that follows the last active crediting period and during which time, activity participants monitor GHG reservoirs for reversals and during which no A6.4ERs can be generated. (<i>Ref.: Para. 3(i) of the Reversals Standard</i>)
Pre-activity scenario	The circumstances and conditions existing immediately prior to the implementation of the Article 6.4 activity at the site where the Article 6.4 activity will be implemented; or the conditions in the absence of policies that refer to or formally integrate the mechanism as an instrument for implementation or, for the case of distributed technologies for households, communities, and/or small and medium enterprises, the existing circumstances and conditions for providing the activity output(s) in the baseline geographical reference area. (<i>Ref.: Para. 10 of the Baseline Standard</i>)
Preventive action	In the context of accreditation, is the action to prevent the occurrence of non-conformity(ies) and improve the effectiveness of a process. (<i>Ref.: Para. 8(p) of the Accreditation Standard</i>)
Prior consideration	Demonstration that the Article 6.4 mechanism benefits were considered necessary in the decision to undertake the Article 6.4 activity by submitting a “prior consideration notification” to the secretariat. (<i>Ref.: Para. 17 of the AS-P and Paras. 14 and 76 of the AS-PoAs</i>)

Term	Meaning
Project design document (PDD)	The document prepared by the activity participant of an Article 6.4 project which sets out in detail, in accordance with the Article 6.4 rules and requirements, the project which is to be undertaken. The PDD form is publicly available on the UNFCCC website. (Ref.: <i>Adapted from the CDM</i>)
Programme of activities (PoA)	A voluntary coordinated action by a private or public entity which coordinates and implements any policy/measure or stated goal (e.g., incentive schemes and voluntary programmes) that leads to emission reductions and/or net removals that are additional to any that would occur in the absence of the PoA, via an unlimited number of CPs. (Ref.: <i>Adapted from the CDM</i>)
Programme of activities design document (PoA-DD)	The document prepared by the activity participants of an Article 6.4 PoA which sets out in detail, in accordance with the Article 6.4 rules and requirements, the PoA which is to be undertaken. The PoA-DD form is publicly available on the UNFCCC website. (Ref.: <i>Adapted from the CDM</i>)
Rebound effects	An increase in the level of service as a result of the implementation of an Article 6.4 activity, e.g., when introducing energy-efficient appliances. (Ref.: <i>Para. 16 of the Appendix I to the Baseline Standard</i>)
Registration	The formal acceptance by the Supervisory Body of a proposed Article 6.4 activity that has been validated by a DOE. Registration is the pre-requisite for the verification, certification and issuance of A6.4ERs. (Ref.: <i>Adapted from the CDM</i>)
Registry administrator	The secretariat, in its role to maintain and operate the mechanism registry under the supervision of the Supervisory Body, in accordance with paragraph 65 of the RMPs. (Ref.: <i>Para. 8(l) of the Registry Procedure</i>)
Regulatory analysis	An analysis to demonstrate that the proposed activity represents mitigation that exceeds any mitigation that is required by law or regulation unless the law or regulation refers to or formally integrates the mechanism as an instrument for implementation. (Ref.: <i>Para. 14(a) of the Additionality standard</i>)
Related body to a DOE	An organization and/or body related to a DOE on the basis of including, but not limited to, family relationships, full or partial common ownership, governance, management or personnel, shared or partially shared resources, finances, contracts, marketing and payment of commission or other inducements for bringing in business or the referral of new clients. (Ref.: <i>Para. 8(q) of the Accreditation Standard</i>)
Related sources, sinks and reservoirs	GHG sources, sinks and reservoirs that have material or energy flows into, out of, or within the Article 6.4 activity. (Ref.: <i>Para. 3(g) of the Leakage Standard</i>)

Term	Meaning
Remaining lifetime	The period during which an equipment would continue operating and/or a certain practice would remain in place without undergoing major repair or overhaul as specified in the mechanism methodology, given limitations such as technical lifetime, economic lifetime, legal requirements, policies, or any other factor which would lead to the discontinuation of the use of the equipment and/or practice. (Ref.: Para. 4(n) of the Baseline Standard)
Removals	The outcomes of processes by which greenhouse gases are removed from the atmosphere as a result of deliberate human activities and are either destroyed or durably stored through anthropogenic activities. (Ref.: Para. 9(a) of the Removals Standard)
Renewal of crediting period	The formal acceptance of the renewal of the crediting period of a registered Article 6.4 project or an included CP validated by a DOE, so as to allow the continued verification, certification and issuance of A6.4ERs, related to that Article 6.4 project or CP in the new crediting period. (Ref.: Adapted from the CDM)
Renewal of PoA period	The formal acceptance of the renewal of the PoA period, validated by a DOE, so as to allow the inclusion of new CPs or renewal of the crediting periods of existing CPs in the new PoA period. (Ref.: Adapted from the CDM)
Reversal	A net loss in the storage of a GHG or a precursor of a GHG for which A6.4ERs have been issued, calculated across all applicable greenhouse gas reservoir(s) over a period of time covered by a monitoring report. (Ref.: Para. 3(j) of the Reversals Standard)
Reversal risk assessment tool	A methodological tool that is used to determine the fraction of the total number of A6.4ERs to be contributed to the reversal risk buffer pool account and whether an activity faces a negligible risk of reversal. (Ref.: Para. 3(k) of the Reversals Standard)
Reversal risk buffer pool account	An account established in the mechanism registry which serves to remediate avoidable and unavoidable reversals in full through cancellation of an equivalent amount and authorization status (AER or MCU) of Buffer A6.4ERs. (Ref.: Para. 53 of the Removals Standard)
Sector	A segment of a national economy that delivers defined output(s) (e.g., municipal waste management, household cooking energy, electricity, residential cooling, freight transportation). (Ref.: Para. 4(o) of the Baseline Standard)
Sectoral scope	A group of activities and processes sharing similar sources of GHG emissions or removals. (Ref.: Para. 8(s) of the Accreditation Standard)

Term	Meaning
Shall	A term used in Article 6.4 regulations to indicate requirements to be followed. (Ref.: Para. 9(a) of the ACP-P and multiple other references)
Shared focal point	A focal point role shared by two or more entities for a given scope of authority of communication with the Supervisory Body and the secretariat with respect to an Article 6.4 activity, where one signature of the corresponding authorized signatories of any one of the shared focal point entities is sufficient to effect any instruction within the scope of authority. (Ref.: Adapted from the CDM)
Should	A term used in Article 6.4 regulations to indicate that among several possibilities, one course of action is recommended as particularly suitable. (Ref.: Para. 9(b) of the ACP-P and multiple other references)
Sink	Any process, activity or mechanism which removes a GHG, an aerosol or a precursor of a GHG from the atmosphere. (Ref.: Article 1, Para. 8 of the UNFCCC)
Sole focal point	A focal point role for a given scope of authority of communication with the Supervisory Body and the secretariat with respect to an Article 6.4 activity, assigned only to one entity and where the signature of one of the corresponding authorized signatories is sufficient to effect any instruction within the said scope of authority. (Ref.: Adapted from the CDM)
Source	Any process or activity which releases a GHG, an aerosol or a precursor of a GHG into the atmosphere. (Ref.: Article 1, Para. 9 of the UNFCCC)
Standardized baseline	A standardization developed on a subnational, national, or group-of-Parties basis rather than on activity-specific basis to facilitate the determination of the baseline, calculation of GHG emission reductions or removals and/or the determination of additionality for Article 6.4 activities, while ensuring environmental integrity within the scope of the standardized baseline. (Ref.: Para. 4(p) of the Baseline Standard)
Start date of crediting period of project, CP	The first date on which verified and certified GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals attributable to a project or CP may result in the issuance of A6.4ERs. (Ref.: Para. 10(c) of the ACP-PoAs)
Start date of a PoA period	The earliest date between the expected start date of the PoA period indicated in the prior consideration notification form and the first day of the global stakeholder consultation. (Ref.: Para. 10(a) of ACP-PoAs)

Term	Meaning
Start date of a project or CP	The date on which activity participants commit to making expenditures for constructing or modifying the main equipment or facility (e.g., a wind turbine), or for providing or modifying a service (e.g., distribution of energy-efficient light bulbs, change of transport management system) under a proposed Article 6.4 project or CP. If a contract for such expenditures (e.g., for procurement of a wind turbine) is signed, the start date is the date on which the contract is signed. In other cases, it is the date on which such expenditures are incurred. If the proposed A6.4 project or CP involves more than one of such contracts or incurred expenditures, the start date is the earliest of the respective dates. Activities incurring minor pre-project expenses (e.g., feasibility studies, preliminary surveys) are not considered in the determination of the start date. (Ref.: Para. 80 of the AS-P and Para. 123 of the AS-PoAs)
Substantive check	In the context of registration and issuance, the process undertaken by the secretariat to confirm that all information and reporting requirements have been met by activity participants, DOEs or DNAs, as applicable, in accordance with the Article 6.4 mechanism rules and requirements. (Ref.: Adapted from the CDM)
Summary note	A note prepared for the Supervisory Body's consideration by the secretariat on completion of the substantive check which summarizes the secretariat's assessment of whether a request complies with the Article 6.4 rules and requirements and which also provides the secretariat's recommendation on whether the Supervisory Body should approve or reject the request. (Ref.: Adapted from the CDM)
Supervisory Body	As defined in Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement, and in paragraph 3 of the annex to Decision 3/CMA.3. The function of the Supervisory Body, whose members are elected by the CMA, is to supervise the Article 6.4 mechanism in accordance with paragraph 24 of the annex to decision 3/CMA.3. (Ref.: Newly formulated)
Suppressed demand	A situation where services provided to a population are insufficient to meet the basic human needs due to barriers, such as low income or lack of infrastructure, and where the growth of emissions resulting from meeting such needs requires special consideration in the assessment of Article 6.4 baseline scenarios. (Ref.: Para. 4(f) of the Suppressed Demand Standard)
Suppressed demand baseline	A crediting baseline that is established for the provision of services that address basic human needs. (Ref.: Para. 4(g) of the Suppressed Demand Standard)

Term	Meaning
SD objectives and priorities of a host Party	The specific goals, targets, indicators, and priorities that a host Party sets to achieve SD within its borders. These objectives and priorities are typically aligned with the broader principles of sustainability, which aim to balance economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. They are typically articulated in national development plans, policies, and strategies and are designed to address the unique challenges and opportunities within the country. (Ref.: Para .19(f) of the A6.4 SD Tool)
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	A set of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They were established by the United Nations in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for SD. (Ref.: Para. 19(e) of the A6.4 SD Tool)
Technical area	In the context of accreditation, a subsector of a sectoral scope defined based on the nature of technical processes, applicable methodologies, monitoring requirements and/or environmental impacts. (Ref.: Para. 8(u) of the Accreditation Standard)
Technical expert	In the context of validation and/or verification/certification, a qualified person who provides specific technical, methodological, and sectoral knowledge and/or expertise in a validation or verification/certification team or a technical review team. (Ref.: Para. 8(v) of the Accreditation Standard)
Technical review	An assessment of a validation or verification/certification opinion and report conducted independent of the validation or verification/certification team that prepared the opinion and report in order to ensure that the validation or verification/certification has been conducted in accordance with all applicable Article 6.4 validation or verification/certification requirements. (Ref.: Para. 8(w) of the Accreditation Standard)
Technical reviewer	A qualified person appointed to conduct the technical review in a technical review team. (Ref.: Para. 8(x) of the Accreditation Standard)
Technical review team	In the context of accreditation, one or more persons conducting a technical review. (Ref.: Para. 8(y) of the Accreditation Standard)
Technology	Equipment or conversion process used for the production of goods or provision of services. It refers to the application of hardware, software or technical processes, such as solar Photovoltaic systems, carbon-capture units, direct air capture systems, pyrolysis reactors or advanced heat-recovery methods, that directly reduce emissions and/or increase removals. (Ref.: Para. 27(b) of the AS-P and Para. 88(b) of the AS-PoAs)
Top management of DOE	Person, group of persons or board that directs and controls the DOE at the highest level. (Ref.: Para. 8(z) of the Accreditation Standard)

Term	Meaning
Unavoidable reversals	The reversals caused by factors over which the activity participants have no influence or control. <i>(Ref.: Para. 9(f) of the Removals Standard and Para. 3(m) of the Reversals Standard)</i>
Validation	The process of independent evaluation of an Article 6.4 activity by a DOE against the requirements of the Article 6.4 rules and requirements, on the basis of the PDD or PoA-DD and CP-DDs. <i>(Ref.: Adapted from the CDM)</i>
Validation/verification opinion	A DOE's written conclusion regarding its validation or verification, as applicable, of an Article 6.4 activity proposed for registration or of a monitoring report. <i>(Ref.: Adapted from the CDM)</i>
Validation or verification/certification personnel	Persons performing validation activities (i.e. validator, team leader, technical expert, and technical reviewer) or verification/certification activities (i.e. verifier, team leader, technical expert and technical reviewer). <i>(Ref.: Para. 8(aa) of the Accreditation Standard)</i>
Validation or verification/certification team	One or more persons conducting a validation or verification/certification. <i>(Ref.: Para. 8(bb) of the Accreditation Standard)</i>
Validation or verification/certification team leader	A qualified person appointed to direct and supervise a validation or verification/certification team. <i>(Ref.: Para. 8(cc) of the Accreditation Standard)</i>
Validator or verifier	A qualified person appointed to conduct a validation or verification/certification in a validation or verification/certification team. <i>(Ref.: Para. 8(dd) of the Accreditation Standard)</i>
Verification	The periodic independent evaluation of the monitoring report of a registered Article 6.4 activity. <i>(Ref.: Adapted from the CDM)</i>

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Document information

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